

# Department of Veterans Affairs

# Memorandum

Date: 20 May 2014

From: Contracting Officer Representative (COR), (FMS)

Subj: Project 554-13-103, FY13 Correct Fire & Life Safety Deficiencies

To: Contracting Officer (10N19) – Attn: Emil Abraham

1. Below are the 05/07/2014 Site Visit contractors questions and VA responses of the above referenced project

- A. In regards to the fire protection piping has the paint on the piping other than the sub-basement been tested for lead?

***VA Response: The piping has not been tested at this time. As stated on contract documents, if contractor suspects LBP – stop work, notify COR and the VA will have testing done. In the meantime, the COR will do at least two samples done before start of work to give a baseline.***

- B. Specification page 7 of 52 Items #8 and #16 approximate square footage of spray protection needed and specific location where needed?

***A&E Response: Detail 8 indicates that 4 locations with spray protection of 12" square areas are required. Detail 16 indicates that 2 locations with spray protection of 12" square areas are required.***

- C. Specification page 7 of 52 Item #18 is it necessary to change door swing or can a new door be installed into existing frame to meet fire requirements and repair existing frame?

***A&E Response: New door and frame are required to meet fire requirements, existing frame can't be repaired.***

- D. Also on item #18 can a hollow metal knock-down frame be used?

***A&E Response: Knock-down frames can't be used, follow the specifications.***

- E. Spec section 08 71 0 .01 1 calls for a hager panic device, plan page A2.01 Detail 14 calls for push pull hardware. Which is correct?

***A&E Response: The specification is correct.***

- F. Spec 08 71 00 .12 Hardware schedule calls for frame but not door, plan detail page 2.01 detail #18 calls for door and frame please clarify.

***A&E Response: New door and frame per detail 18 is correct, the hardware schedule doesn't indicate the frame requirements because the frame isn't hardware.***

- G. Spec section 08 71 0 .01 1 hardware schedule HW-4 calls for door only not frame but on plan page A2.00 detail #5 calls for door and frame. Which is correct?

***A&E Response: New door and frame per detail #5 is correct, the hardware schedule doesn't indicate the frame requirements because the frame isn't hardware.***

- H. How many PRV's does the VA hospital have? The drawings are inaccurate on the "#28" symbol which stated the areas where the scope of work is performed. For example, Drwg A1.09 indicates there are PRV's in room 9C108, and at stair 2. However, on the site walk we looked at both of these spaces, and there are no PRVs in these spaces.  
***A&E Response: Each stairwell hose cabinet contains a PRV valve. There may be an exception to this condition on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor. However, field notes indicate that each stairwell cabinet contains these valves. Proceed with pricing showing all stairwell conditions.***  
***On drawing A1.09 detail reference #28 for room 9C108 was mislabeled; the referenced detail #28 is to be on the stairwell 9CST5 and PRV room 9C106.***
- I. Does the hospital have an updated Inspection reports that shows the number of valves?  
***VA Response: No, because we do not have gages to monitor the valves, the inspections have not included valves. For bidding purposes , see response on Question H.***
- J. What sizes are these valves ?  
***A&E Response: Valves are 2-1/2"***
- K. Will the standpipe riser shutdown be required to be performed after hours.  
***VA Response: No, we can coordinate the riser/or zone shutdown during work hours. Recommendation is to drain a zone per floor – rather than the whole riser. This will ease coordination among users.***
- L. Since the standpipe shuts down actually shuts down the entire riser, will the fire watch be performed throughout the entire hospital.  
***VA Response: According to Fire Safety manager, each floor zone has a separate drain located in the housekeeping closets for each floor. If work is to be done by zone – rather than the riser – a fire watch person will only be needed in that zone if the shutdown is more than 4 hrs long.***  
***The exceptions being on health care floors 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> (in-patient care areas), and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor high hazard Laboratory area (south wing)- fire watch will be required. The fire watch person will only be responsible for fire watch, documentation will be required.***  
***If the whole riser needs to be shut down, then Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) will be required on the health care floors, 7th, 5th, 4th, and the high hazard area of the laboratories on the 3rd floor. Additionally, each floor will need to have a fire watch person at each area the riser affects in each floor regardless of shutdown duration.***
- M. Can the hospital security be part of the fire watch to keep the cost impact down? To gain access?  
***VA Response: No, the hospital security is not allowed to be part of fire watch. Contractor is responsible for any fire watch requirements. Access to the areas will be provided and/or coordinated by COR.***
- N. Once the gauges are installed, the fixing of the water deficiencies are not part of the subcontractors scope of work?  
***VA Response: Hydraulic analysis will be performed separately by VA. Contractor is only to install gauges as part of this project.***

- O. According to the specs section 2.3 sprinklers A. states – ALL sprinklers shall be FM approved. Provide quick response sprinklers in all areas, ...? Are you implying the entire HOSPITAL??? Please confirm the only sprinkler heads required by the scope of work are those identified on the drawings G0.02, new deficiency item 9.

***A&E Response: The project specifications only refer to areas of work identified by this scope, not the entire hospital. Any new sprinkler heads are to be UL listed, FM approved and quick response (where applicable).***

- P. What is the personnel requirement for fire watch?

***VA Response: One person per affected area of sprinkler shutdown. The person's only responsibility is to do fire watch, he or she is not allowed to perform any other type of work during the shutdown. Fire watch person will need to document and log every 30 minutes the status. See answer to question 12 on requirements depending on shutdown approach.***

- Q. Where do fire sprinkler risers drain?

***Response: Each riser should have a main drain in the sub-basement area. In addition, each floor zone should have a drain located in the housekeeping closets for that zone. These would eliminate the need to shut down the complete riser and coordination of work could be simplified. Currently, our Fire Safety officer is checking with the plumbing shop to verify.***

- R. Are any special accommodations required to drain the risers?

***A&E Response: Denver VA has a procedure for draining the system. Each riser is drained separately. Denver VA can provide additional information. Floor drains are located at riser drain points.***

- S. Please provide information which identifies the specific zones covered by each sprinkler riser?

***VA Response: The accuracy of the information on file/drawings may not be reliable. This information will be available after award during work scheduling. For the most part each fire closet has a sign placed on valve showing the zone/area affected by that particular valve. In general, a riser handles the area in which it is located. Areas are defined by letters in the room names A, B, C, D, etc.***

- T. On the SOW deficiency item #28 references staircases 1,2,4,5,6,9 and 10 (total of 7 staircases). On the plan sheets, there is a keynote #28 pointing to the staircase 7 in the basement through the 7th floors. The question is if we should include the cost of the 8 additional risers in staircase 7 as shown on the plans or only include the staircases that are listed in the SOW?

***VA Response: Only include the staircases listed in the SOW.***

2. Please contact me at extension x2669 if you have any questions.



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